

the seeds of settlement at a spring they called London. The London campsite became the largest settlement and when the area was designated as Wasatch County in 1862 the town became Heber City, the county seat.

The early Heber history is filled with stories of discouragement and struggle as the colonizers attempted to win new homes from rough nature. Yet through all the history is woven a strong thread of faith and determination, the fruits of which are being borne even today in a valley of peace and plenty.

In addition to raising crops and caring for their cattle, the early settlers had to build homes for their families and work on roads, canals, bridges and public buildings. The early log homes had dirt roofs and dirt floors. Home made furniture included stools made from split logs, hewn with an axe and finished with crude legs. Tables and beds were also made in the same rough way. However, President Brigham Young sent a skilled carpenter, William Bell to the valley and he began to teach the people how to make useful and attractive furniture.

It was 1863 before lumber became available for flooring and before shingles were made to replace the dirt roofs. Dave Stevenson is said to have made the first shingles by hand in the valley.

While settling was still going on, President Young called men on special missions to drive ox teams and wagons across the plains to help bring new settlers to the Rocky Mountain empire. In 1861 three men and teams were the first to be called from Heber City to make the five-



The home of Thomas Rasband, one of the early brick homes. Standing in front of the home are Josephine Booth Rasband, Elizabeth Giles Rasband and Mary Greenwood Giles.



The brick home of James W. Clyde built about 1900. The white Shetland ponies and the two-seated buggy pictured here with the home were leading attractions of all the children in Heber and the surrounding area.

month journey to the end of the railroad lines in the mid-west and back to Zion. From then until 1869 when the railroad came to Utah, many teams and men from Heber City made the trek back and forth.

Because there were no community services available in Heber's early days, people were very self-sufficient. Women made their own soaps for washing and everyone had molds from which candles of mutton tallow were formed. The best lighted homes had a board hanging down from the ceiling with another board attached at right angles to hold from four to six candles.

About 1864 and 1865 a few people began to build homes from the red sandstone so abundant in the area. This excellent building stone eventually found its way into many of the finest buildings in Salt Lake City, Utah County and eastern Utah as well as Wasatch County. Into the Heber homes built of stone went the first metal stoves brought into the area. Coal for the stoves was hauled in from Coalville, a distance of 40 miles. The first stone school and church buildings were erected in the fall of 1864, and were dedicated by President Young. The crowds were reported to be so large that special boweries had to be built to handle the people.

Heber's growing population received an unexpected boost in the Spring of 1866 when nearly all the people from surrounding settlements were forced to move together for protection from the Indians.

A Congressional act of May 5, 1864 had forced the Ute Indians